Contour Drawing of a Museum Facade: A Line-Only Study

Original tasks 1 / complete keys

Task 1

A facade reference shows a roofline 10 cm wide, three columns with centers at 1, 4, and 7 cm from the left edge, and an entrance 3 cm wide centered on the roofline. Treat the entrance as a U open at the facade base, with no threshold line visible. Draw the contour study with one line weight for all edges.

Answer: Roofline from 0 to 10 cm. Outer verticals at 0 and 10 cm. For each column center, draw a pair of vertical edges 0.5 cm apart (hypothetical column width): edges at 0.75 and 1.25 cm, 3.75 and 4.25 cm, and 6.75 and 7.25 cm. The entrance is centered at 5 cm and spans 3.5 to 6.5 cm, so it crosses the column centered at 4 cm. State a hidden-edge convention: treat that column as in front across its full width. Under this convention, interrupt only the entrance's top edge where it passes behind the column, between 3.75 and 4.25 cm, and resume it at 4.25 cm. The entrance's side edges at 3.5 cm and 6.5 cm lie outside the column's span, so they are not occluded and are drawn unbroken. Leave the base of the U open; do not draw a bottom sill. All lines same weight; no shading.

Reason: The entrance is centered on the 10 cm roofline, so its midpoint is 5 cm and it spans 3.5 to 6.5 cm. Because the column centered at 4 cm has edges at 3.75 and 4.25 cm, the entrance overlaps that column; the stated hidden-edge convention resolves the overlap without inventing detail. One line weight keeps the convention simple.

Check: Measure the entrance midpoint: it should equal 5 cm, the midpoint of the 10 cm roofline. Confirm the entrance line stops at 3.75 cm and resumes at 4.25 cm per the stated convention, remains open at the facade base without a bottom sill, and has no tonal marks or converging lines.

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Original tasks 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 2

Use this complete text reference on a 10 cm by 6 cm facade grid with 1 cm units: a straight roofline runs from (0,6) to (10,6); a centered entrance is a U-shaped outline with vertical sides at x=3.5 and x=6.5 from y=0 to y=4, joined by a top edge from (3.5,4) to (6.5,4). The U is intentionally open at the facade base, with no bottom edge or threshold. Draw a blind contour of only the roofline and entrance as two separate outlines, without looking at your paper. After uncovering it, name two edges that differ from the stated reference and redraw those edges slowly.

Answer: The blind attempt may be distorted. A valid comparison could identify a roofline that ends at y=5.5 instead of y=6 and an entrance right side at x=6.9 instead of x=6.5; redraw those two edges at the reference positions. Other specific mismatches are valid if they are measured against the supplied coordinates. Keep the roofline and entrance separate, and leave the entrance U open at the base without adding a bottom edge or threshold.

Reason: The prompt supplies the full reference geometry, so it does not depend on another exercise or a missing image. The practice checks observation and correction rather than requiring the first blind attempt to be accurate.

Check: Confirm the blind attempt contains the separate roofline and U-shaped entrance contours. Keep the U open at the facade base; do not add a bottom edge or threshold absent from the reference. After uncovering, list two concrete coordinate differences relative to the reference and redraw those edges at their stated positions. Do not add a connecting line between the roofline and entrance or unrelated facade details.

Task 3

A facade has a stepped roofline: left section 8 cm wide at height 6 cm, right section 4 cm wide at height 4 cm, with a vertical step between them. Draw the roofline contour and state your hidden-edge convention for the step.

Answer: Draw the left roofline from 0 to 8 cm at height 6 cm, a vertical step down from 6 to 4 cm at 8 cm, then the right roofline from 8 to 12 cm at height 4 cm. State that the step is drawn as a visible vertical edge, not hidden.

Reason: The step is a visible edge, so no hidden-line convention is needed there; stating this prevents ambiguity. Widths sum to 12 cm, matching the total.

Check: Confirm the step vertical is at 8 cm and that heights 6 cm and 4 cm are labeled as hypothetical measurements.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Draw a contour study of a facade with a 14 cm roofline, five columns with centers at 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 cm from the left edge, and an entrance 1 cm wide centered on the roofline. Use a lighter line for columns and state one check you performed.

Answer: Roofline 0 to 14 cm. For each column center, draw a pair of vertical edges 0.5 cm apart (hypothetical column width): edges at 1.75/2.25, 3.75/4.25, 5.75/6.25, 7.75/8.25, and 9.75/10.25 cm. Entrance centered at 7 cm, spanning 6.5 to 7.5 cm, fitting between the columns centered at 6 and 8 cm. Column edges lighter; roofline and entrance heavier. Check: entrance midpoint equals roofline midpoint at 7 cm.

Reason: The entrance is centered on the 14 cm roofline, so its midpoint is 7 cm; at 1 cm wide it spans 6.5 to 7.5 cm, which fits between the columns at 6 and 8 cm. The midpoint check is simple arithmetic.

Check: Measure entrance midpoint (7 cm) against roofline midpoint (7 cm); confirm the 1 cm entrance fits between columns at 6 and 8 cm and that column line weight is lighter than outer edges.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Contour only: no shading, hatching, or tonal marks.
- [ ] No perspective construction lines or vanishing points.
- [ ] Roofline, outer verticals, column edges, and entrance are all present.
- [ ] Line weight convention is stated and applied consistently.
- [ ] Hidden-edge convention is stated and applied consistently.
- [ ] Edges correspond to observed reference features, not invented detail.
- [ ] Blind-contour attempt is included and compared to the reference.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?